

Claims

1. A method for the provision of an appetite control agent which method comprises using one or more agonists or antagonists of a G protein coupled receptor GPR19 as test compounds in one or more appetite control test procedures, and selecting an active compound for use as an appetite control agent.

2. A method as claimed in claim 1 which comprises (i) screening a GPR19 receptor for agonists and/or antagonists of the receptor and (ii) using one or more agonists or antagonists so identified as test compounds in one or more appetite control test procedures, and selecting an active compound for use as an appetite control agent.

3. A method as claimed in claim 1 or 2 wherein the GPR19 receptor is the human GPR 19 receptor.

4. A method of appetite control which comprises administering to an individual in need thereof of a pharmaceutically effective amount of an agonist of a GPR19 receptor.

5. A method of appetite control which comprises administering to an individual in need thereof a pharmaceutically effective amount of an antagonist of a GPR19 receptor.

6. A method of appetite control which method comprises administering to an individual a pharmaceutically effective amount of an appetite control agent identified using a method as claimed in claim 1 or 2.

7. An appetite control comprising an antisense DNA which is complementary to all or a part of a polynucleotide sequence shown in any of SEQ ID No. 1 or SEQ ID. No. 2 or a variant thereof.

8. An appetite control agent comprising an antisense RNA which is complementary to all or a part of a polynucleotide sequence shown in any one of SEQ ID No. 1 or SEQ ID No. 2 or a variant thereof.

9. A transgenic animal in which a GPR19 gene is deleted.

10. A transgenic animal in which a GPR19 gene is inactivated.

11. A transgenic animal in which a GPR19 gene is modified.

12. The use of a transgenic animal as claimed in any one of claims 9-11 in evaluating the effects of test compounds in appetite control and obesity.

13. A dominant negative mutant of a GPR19 receptor.

14. A dominant positive mutant in a GPR19 receptor.

15. The use of a mutant as claimed in claim 13 or claim 14 in evaluating the biological role of the GPR19 receptor in appetite control.

16. A method as claimed in claim 1 or 2 and wherein the test compound is a polypeptide.

17. A method as claimed in claim 1 or 2 and wherein the test compound is a chemical compound of less than 1000 daltons in weight.

18. A method as claimed in claim 16 and wherein a library of compounds is tested.

19. The use of a diagnostic assay to determine the expression level of GPR19 in a human subject.

20. The use of a diagnostic assay to determine as allelic variant of a GPR19 gene.

21. A method as claimed in claim 17 wherein a library of compounds is tested.